

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 703 - SB 907**

February 25, 2013

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes a county election commission, by a super majority vote, to participate in a pilot program and establish convenient voting centers on Election Day. Requires the county election commission to submit a written plan to the Coordinator of Elections for approval prior to implementing such centers. Exempts counties using convenient voting centers from the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-3-303, which requires elections be held in certain polling places.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease State Expenditures –**

**\$90,900/FY15-16 and Every Four Years Thereafter**

**Increase Local Expenditures – \$83,500/FY13-14/Permissive**

**Decrease Local Expenditures –**

**\$181,700/FY14-15 and Every Two Years Thereafter/Permissive**

**\$90,900/FY17-18 and Every Four Years Thereafter/Permissive**

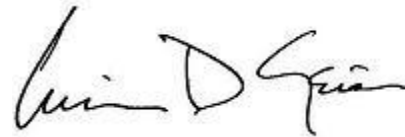
**Assumptions:**

- Based on information provided by the Secretary of State, expenditures associated with elections will decrease as a result of implementation of the proposed pilot program. Given the likelihood for reduced election expenditures, and further given the bill establishes no sunset provision that would effectively terminate the proposed pilot program, it is assumed that a majority of counties participating will continue utilizing convenient voting centers into perpetuity.
- Exempting counties from the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-3-303 will result in participating counties closing some of the existing polling locations and opening a limited number of convenient voting centers.
- According to the Division of Elections, there will be a one-time cost to initiate the new convenient voting centers, which includes the cost of publications and mailings.
- According to the Division of Elections, and based on information provided by ten counties willing to participate in the pilot project, the initial startup cost will be approximately \$166,990 for local governments. This will be partially offset by local savings of \$83,472 from closing polling places.
- The net impact will be a one-time permissive increase in local government expenditures of \$83,518 (\$166,990 - \$83,472) in FY13-14.

- Based on information provided by the Coordinator of Elections, in subsequent elections the decrease in expenditures is estimated to be \$90,867 per election.
- In FY15-16, the only election held will be the Presidential Preference Primary. The state pays the cost of elections in these years. A decrease in state expenditures estimated to be \$90,867 and every four years thereafter.
- A permissive decrease in local government expenditures estimated to be \$181,734 (\$90,867 x 2 elections) in FY14-15 and every two years thereafter (based on August and November elections).
- A permissive decrease in local government expenditures estimated to be \$90,867 in FY17-18 and every four years thereafter.
- Any costs associated with the county election commissions submitting participation plans, or for the Coordinator of Elections to submit reports with legislative committees, is estimated to be not significant.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucian D. Geise', written in a cursive style.

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jaw